

FERNHURST PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council
held at Fernhurst Village Hall on Wednesday 14th
November 2012 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Cottam (Chairman)
Mrs. H. Bicknell
Mrs. N. Braithwaite
Mr. R. Chapman
Mr. A. Moncreiff
Mr. K. Harding
Mrs. S. Ogilvy
Mrs. H. Pezier
Mr. J. Smith Mrs. M. Timms

APLOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mr. G. Walls

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Brown (County Councillor)
Mrs. H. Caird (District Councillor)
Mr. D. Bleach (Clerk & Executive Officer)
1 Member of the public
1 Member of the press

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEEETING

It was proposed by Mrs. Timms and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2012 be signed as correct. Carried.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Fernhurst Public Toilets

The Clerk had held a discussion with Mrs. Caird and Mr. Riley of Chichester District Council, who had expressed the view that the District Council would be unwilling to put any money into re-opening the toilets or to making good any defects in the building, as it was under pressure to save even more money on this service.

Mr. Cottam asked whether the rates could be reduced to help reduce the annual running costs. The Clerk would make enquiries about that. Mr. Moncreiff suggested that the District Council could pay half the rates as at present it was having to pay them on unused premises.

Mr. Harding commented that the South Downs National Park should support the toilets as they are of benefit to people using the park.

2.

b) Allotments

Nothing to report.

c) Play Area – Fernhurst Recreation Ground – Cricket balls

The erection of the supports for the safety netting was proceeding. The Clerk would enquire how much it would cost if Valley Landscape Projects was to erect and dismantle the netting each season if the Recreation Ground Trust declined so to do.

d) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Tree

Mrs. Ogilvy reported that Mr. Robin Barnes would dig the hole for the tree. The Head Tree Warden for the County Council would do a short talk. The reception class and two children from each other class at Fernhurst Primary School would be attending. The Chairman of the SDNPA (Mrs. Peren) is to be invited. The organisers would like to provide some refreshments for those attending and Mrs. Turner offered to check whether the pavilion is available.

e) Neighbourhood Plan

A first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan had been issued to the working group leaders for them to forward their comments to the steering group. The steering group would meet on Monday 19th November to consider the comments.

f) St. Cuthman's School Bus Route

A large number of parishioners had written to the SDNP objecting to the proposed coach route through Fernhurst but had received replies that the SDNP could do nothing as no planning application had yet been made. However, the comments have been passed to the Durand Academy.

g) Broadband

The Clerk reported that he had received two emails from BT Openreach stating their hope that two of the broadband cabinets would be ready for use before Christmas and the other soon afterwards. BT Openreach will inform all broadband providers when superfast broadband is available and they will contact their own customers for them to take up the option if they wish.

h) Fernhurst Millennium Sign

A licence to move the sign to the raised flowerbed next to Blackdown Press is to be issued by the District Council.

3. COUNTY COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mr. Brown reported that due to delays by EU regulations, the WSCC superfast broadband project would not be completed now until Summer 2015.

Yesterday, Mr. Brown had met with the new Local Government Minister and discussed problems of central government funding over the past years. The Minister was supportive and helpful and will lobby other departments over the matter.

3.

It is fairly likely that WSCC will be able to freeze Council Tax next year and hopefully the year after.

Plans had been announced to expand Fernhurst Primary School, which has limited capacity despite the extra building a short while ago, partly due to an increase in the birth rate.

The County Council needs to spend £102m over the next three years just to accommodate primary school children. This will later impact on secondary schools.

Mr. Cottam commented that extra children would exacerbate the parking problem and asked Mr. Brown to take that back to his officers to consider.

Referring to complaints about a burger van parked in a layby on Fridays Hill, Mr. Brown advised that the County Council normally exercises tolerance as it provides a service to motorists. He had received a number of complaints about the smell from the van. He has asked his officers to evict them.

Mr. Smith enquired as to what support and training is available to the Youth Club. Mr. Brown replied that full-time youth workers are employed by the County Council and their services can be called upon. Mr. Smith added that his main concerns were about child protection and safeguarding and what support is available.

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Mrs. Caird reported that a cross-border meeting had been held that afternoon involving the Police, Councillors and council officers from West Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire.

The summer had been reasonable quiet with a reduction in anti-social behaviour. British Transport Police had given a presentation on the theft of copper cable from the railways. Also, a lot of lead had been stolen from various locations. Scrap yards around the area have been visited and it has been made clear that they will be prosecuted if they buy stolen metal. They are no longer permitted to pay out in cash.

There had been a lot of thefts from vehicles and many bicycles stolen from stations. Bike marking and registration is being promoted.

It is expected that Christmas tree thefts will soon start and people are being asked to be wary of cheap trees and those being sold at the roadside.

A fire at the District Council's vehicle depot had resulted in the loss of two refuse vehicles and the sheds which will cost a great deal to replace.

There had been 17 new applications for housing from homeless people in September.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER MATTERS

From	Subject
Clerk	Dispensations. The Chairman read out his briefing note explaining the need for Members to apply for dispensations to allow them to discuss and vote on the budget and precept. Each application was heard separately and the details are shown in Annex 'A'
Chichester District Council	Consultation on rural car parks. Noted.

4.

Chichester District Council	Meeting with the parishes Monday 26 th November from 6.00 p.m. Mr. Cottam and Mrs. Timms to attend.
Fernhurst Good Companions	Letter of thanks for grant. Noted.
WSCC	Consultation on proposed expansion of Fernhurst Primary School. Noted.
SALC	Meeting with the Chief Constable. Noted.
Mr. R. Barnes	Pathwatch. Mr. Barnes would no longer be attending the Pathwatch meetings on behalf of Fernhurst. As no-one was able to take on this role, Mrs. Turner agreed to ask the Fernhurst Society if anyone was interested.
Chichester District Council	Consultation on Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Noted.
Chichester District Council	Community Forum meeting 29 th November, 7.00 p.m. at The Grange. Mr. Smith to attend.
The Royal British Legion	Letter of thanks for donation. Noted.
Midhurst Rother College	Invitation to tours of new building. Mrs. Braithwaite, Mrs. Ogilvy and Mr. & Mrs. Cottam to attend.
WSCC	Winter maintenance plan. Noted.
Clerk	Christmas Lights – Tuesday 4 th December 7.00 p.m. It was proposed by Mrs. Bicknell and seconded by Mrs. Ogilvy that, in addition to the donations from Councillors, the Parish Council should contribute a further £75.00 towards the cost of the mulled wine and refreshments. Carried.
Clerk	Christmas Party – Friday 7 th December at 7.00 p.m. Mr. Cottam to purchase the wine and soft drinks. Mari Hudson to do the catering and Mrs. Ogilvy offered to do the table decorations and get the tablecloths.
Item Available for Reading	
WSCC	‘Taste West Sussex’.
Open Spaces Society	‘Open Space’ – Autumn 2012.
‘Clerks and Councils Direct’	November 2012 issue.
SLCC	‘The Clerk’ magazine – November 2012.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

7. MONTHLY EXECUTIVE REPORTS/COMMITTEE MATTERS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

a) Payments

It was proposed by Mr. Chapman and seconded by Mr. Harding that the list of payments and cheques shown at Annex 'B' be approved and signed. Carried. (Mrs. Bicknell declared a personal interest in this item.)

Receipts

See schedule attached at Annex 'B'.

d) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation report, attached at Annex 'C', which was accepted.

e) Monthly Budget Report

The Clerk presented the report, shown at Annex 'D', which was accepted.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Mrs. Braithwaite and seconded by Mr. Chapman that the minutes of the meetings held on 8th and 15th October and 5th November 2012 be approved and signed. Carried.

SDNP/12/02471/FUL - 6, Verdley Place, Fernhurst. Erection of single storey wooden garden room.

It was proposed by Mrs. Braithwaite and seconded by Mr. Harding that the Parish Council recommends approval of the application. Carried.

PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

FERNHURST RECREATION GROUND

Mr. Cottam reported that the trustees are putting together the next phase of the development of the ground which involves extending the pavilion. They are also proposing to install cricket nets which would cost around £50k and £40k of that has been raised so far, but there is some concern about where they are to be located, next to the tennis courts which had been earmarked for a multi-use games area. Mr. Moncreiff would raise the matter with the trustees.

Leading on from this, Mr. Cottam commented that at the public meetings regarding the Neighbourhood Plan the developers of the Syngenta site had been told that we would like some community facilities on the site,

6.

such as a sports hall. If provided arrangements would need to be made as to who would run, insure and maintain it and collect user's fees etc. This could be a residents' association or possibly the Parish Council. He would like to hear of any other ideas for community facilities on the site.

8. UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES

a) Services for young people and the Youth Club

Mr. Smith reported that the young people have made posters and are making cakes for the Children in Need appeal.

He would write to Mr. Brown asking that the support from the County Council to volunteer staff is appropriate.

b) Fernhurst Village Hall

Nothing to report.

c) Policing

Nothing to report.

d) Fernhurst Primary School and Pre-School

Mrs. Timms would be attending a meeting tomorrow night when they would be discussing the expansion of the school.

9. QUESTIONTIME FOR PARISHIONERS

Mrs. Turner asked why the Payment to Navigus Planning for Neighbourhood Plan work had been increased. Mr. Cottam explained that they had been asked to do additional work to that originally envisaged.

Mrs. Turner asked what was happening regarding the proposal for a BMX track. Mr. Smith replied that he needs to get a group together to develop the idea.

Mrs. Turner asked if more than one person could visit sites where there is a planning application. Mr. Cottam replied that sometimes, when an application is important or complex more than one person does visit, but sometimes no-one else is available.

Mrs. Bicknell asked if there had been any football played at the recreation ground this year and was advised that there had been, on the old pitch. Mr. Cottam asked Mr. Harding to find out if the children's team is playing or if the kit had been purchased with the grants provided.